



St. Paul's Lutheran

THE EPISTLE

APRIL 2024

Greetings St. Paul's and friends of the Church,

Happy Easter! Jesus is risen! Christ's resurrection brings hope and relief to our hearts! Our faith is not in vain, but is a sure indication that Christ is alive in our heart and leads us forward by the Spirit according to the will of God.

Thank you for serving alongside me at St. Paul's since 2012. We have worshipped and served together, sharing joys and sorrows, spreading the love of Christ, and using our gifts to make Jesus known. We have learned together as disciples of Christ, listening for the Word of God, and partnering with so many people in Baytown and beyond in carrying out ministry.

I hold you close to my heart and in my prayers as you move into a new journey with God and as I move into specialized ministry, being called by God from the land to the sea.

In God's timing, after many years of pastoring in this church and serving as a certified crisis chaplain with Baytown Police and Harris County Deputy Constables, I was invited by a maritime Chaplain and referred by a pastor to christen a tugboat. This led to the christening of another tugboat and more visits with crews aboard vessels. This is in line with the time I spent providing pastoral care aboard multi-national ships in my last call and my family's history of careers with Navy and law enforcement.

I served as a volunteer associate chaplain with SCI (The Seamen's Church Institute of New York and New Jersey), and then was offered the full-time position as SCI Maritime Chaplain, Houston and Gulf Coast Region, which I have accepted.

Based at the Port of Houston, SCI Center for Maritime Education, I will be doing visits onto docked and underway commercial vessels to provide direct pastoral and emergency crisis response to U.S. mariners and shore-side staff, supporting the maritime-industry. This industry provides a vital service to our nation moving cargo throughout oceans and waterways.

I will begin my new position under a synod council call beginning Monday, April 8. This means, my final day as your pastor at St. Paul's is Sunday, April 7. You will have pastoral coverage as you move faithfully into your new future.

It has been an honor serving as your pastor, and I pray for us all to continue serving the Lord with gratitude! Let us keep our trust firmly planted in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Love and Peace in Christ,

Nancy

Pastor Nancy Simpson





Birthdays

2 – Ruth Blue
 3 – Sherry Eickenhorst
 4 – Dennis Salo
 5 – Gavin Parker
 6 – Darren Seymour
 12 – Becky Rouyer
 15—Elizabeth Elizondo
 18 – Helen Reavis
 23 – Sherry White
 25 – Kristen Stephens
 26—Caroline Rein
 30 – Colleen Peting

Baptismal Anniversaries

1 – Ruth Blue
 1 – Jan Lorfing
 1 – Colleen Peting
 5 – Arlen Holle
 5 - Boo Boo Fojt
 8 – Lorrie Andrews
 21—Luna Moreno
 23 – Ian Gillespie
 25—Scarlett Rein
 25—Hannah Zarsky
 28—Emilia Landry
 29 – Laney Cherry
 29 – Ty Haro

Wedding Anniversaries

10 – Brian & Lori Viereck
 17 – Jake & Jan Lorfing

Church Office Closed

Monday, April 1st

Thank You

- Thank you to Hoya Ash, Kurt and Kelly Migl, and John Schlobohm for the lawn maintenance
- To Rosie Haas for keeping our flower beds looking great
- Beehive Florist for the fresh floral arrangements for worship
- To our Food Pantry volunteers for all their hard work.
- To the knitters and crocheters for the prayer shawls & hospital blankets
- To our Eucharistic Ministers for taking Holy Communion to our shut-ins and hospitalized church members
- To Bubba Gonzales and Ian Gillespie for keeping our church sign current
- To Ian Gillespie for taking our old computers to the Green Center
- To all who participated in the Church Workday. Thank you!
- To Cat Mahan and Ian Gillespie for being office angels
- To all who helped with the 9th Annual Community Flea Market. We were very successful and the weather was great! With your continued support, we were able to add \$1,546.35 to the general fund.
- To all who helped with the Pretzels & Pints St. Patrick's Day celebration. Everyone looked amazing in green.
- To all who provided soup for our midday Lent devotions
- To our Palm Sunday Passion Players: Jennifer Crizer, Daucy Crizer, and Darren Seymour
- To all who helped with the special Holy Week services

Golden Group Activities

Bus Trip: Painted Churches

Wednesday, April 10th, 7:30am

Cost: \$12 lunch on your own @ Old Oakridge Steakhouse

Monthly Luncheon: Hibachi Grill, 3703 Garth Rd, Baytown

Tuesday, April 16th @ 11:30am

Sign-Up sheets in the Fellowship Hall. Text or email Lorrie for more info: 281-382-9770 landrews1124@gmail.com

FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR PASTOR NANCY

Sunday April 7th. Please join us after worship for a cupcake and punch reception as we say bon voyage to pastor as she begins her new journey as Maritime Chaplain, Houston & Gulf Coast Region with the Seamen's Church Institute.



FIRST SUNDAY CONFIRMATION CLASS



Sunday, April 7th
9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
CONFIRMATION SUNDAY MAY 19TH

Alzheimer's Awareness Presentation

Sunday April 14th
after worship
Susan Monroe, Presenter

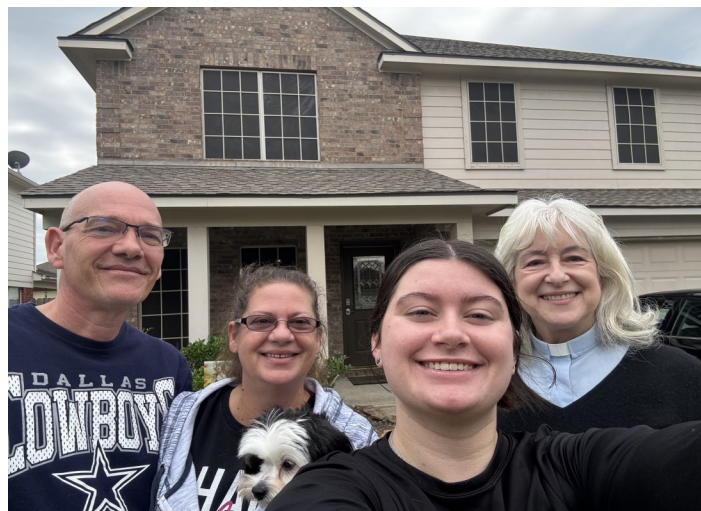


Susan is a volunteer with the Alzheimer's Association, assisting as a Community Educator. She is an RN with a bachelors degree in nursing and a certification in psychiatric nursing. She has worked in many fields for 33 years including patients who have dementia, Home Health, and at the Hospice and Geriatric Psych unit at the Methodist Hospital. She has taught Psych for an Associated level RN program, which included dementia and nursing care.

NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

It is time for a new directory. A working copy of the new directory will be on tables in the Fellowship Hall. Please find your name and check all the information listed. Make all changes necessary. If the information is all correct please put an "ok" by your name.

If you would like an updated picture for the directory please see David Andrews before or after church to get your picture taken.



Pastor Nancy blessed the Mahan's house



Prayer Shawl & Hospital Blanket Blessing Sunday April 28th

If you know of someone in need of a shawl please come to the church office.

GRADUATION SUNDAY

If you have a family member graduating this spring, please contact the church office so we can celebrate you in our upcoming Graduation Milestone.



Pastor Nancy "becomes" Doubting Thomas during one of the dramatic readings of our Midday Lenten devotions



St. Patrick's Day celebration at St. Paul's



Eli's after school picture, 2013

Boy Scout Areth "Eli" Garcia is working toward the rank of Eagle Scout. He has chosen St. Paul's for as his Eagle Scout Project. He has discussed and approved plans with Ian Gillespie and Kurt Migl to beautify an area in the courtyard. Eli and his family have a closeness with St. Paul's as Eli attended the St. Paul's After School Program. Brother Adriel, also a Boy Scout, and Eli worked in the Food Pantry to earn some service hours.





Palm Sunday

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Baytown, TX
Council Meeting March 14, 2024

Members Present: Pastor Nancy, Ian Gillespie, John Schlobohm, Kim Holle, Linda Hendricks, Angie Ash, Rosie Haas, Cathleen Mahan, Bev Tomsic, Donna Reavis, Becky Linsenbardt, Susan Clanton

Members Absent: Luis Estrada

Guests:

Bishop Mike Rinehart, Bishop of the ELCA Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod
Pastor Tracey Breashears-Schultz, Synod liaison for Call Process,
Robin Dunn, Jada Hylton

The meeting was called to order by President Ian Gillespie at 6:30 PM. Susan Clanton led the group in the opening prayer.

FEBRUARY MINUTES

Susan Clanton MOVED, Donna Reavis seconded, to approve the Minutes of the February 3, 2024 Council Retreat. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT

- Holy Week services –
Sunday, March 24 – Palm Sunday
Thursday, March 28 – Maundy Thursday
Friday, March 29 – Good Friday
Sunday, March 31 – Easter Sunday
- TX/LA Gulf Coast Synod Assembly – Friday, May 17 – Saturday, May 18 at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, The Woodlands. Cathleen Mahan and the interim pastor will be voting members representing St. Paul's. Cathleen Mahan, Kirsten Ellis, and Wes Bruner will be ready to be confirmed on Pentecost, May 19. Brooks Bruner has one more year of classes to finish.
- The Mahan home and Holle RV were recently blessed by the pastor.
- Jada Hylton will be on vacation from after church March 31 and return to the office Wed, April 3.
- Silent Day Retreat out of town- Pastor Nancy – Monday March 18
- The church office will be closed Easter Monday, April 1.
- El Taller Del Maestro Peniel contract (Assembly of God) expires Tuesday, April 23. A renewal contract will need to be completed and signed by Pastor Hermilo Cortes, Pastor Anahi Cortes, and Ian Gillespie, Council President. John Schlobohm MOVED, Susan Clanton seconded that we keep the contract "as is" at \$600 a month.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Kim Holle presented the financials for the month of February, reporting that income exceeded expenses in the amount of \$5,688.13.
John Schlobohm MOVED, Beverly Tomsic seconded, to approve the report as presented. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None discussed

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Reports

Youth and Family

- The Flea Market will be Saturday, March 16 from 9:00 – 2:00. Hot dogs, Frito pie, nachos, cokes, and dessert will be sold.
- On Sunday, March 17, green sherbet floats and pretzels will be available. A free will offering will be collected.

Inreach/Outreach

It was reported that Susan Monroe is available to make a presentation regarding Alzheimer's to the congregation or any other group at St. Paul's.

Worship and Music

There was no written report, however, the committee discussed Holy Week activities at their meeting.

The new Orange Book was reviewed.

The regular meeting ended at 6:55 PM and moved on to a special meeting, Pastor Nancy's exit interview.

The meeting began with prayer and a devotion by Bishop Mike who opened the floor to council members to speak. Council members introduced themselves.

Pastor Nancy made comments regarding her 12 years as pastor of St. Paul's. Council members offered comments on highlights of Pastor Nancy's time here.

Pastor Tracey Breashears Schultz, Synod liaison who works with congregations in transition, then presented the process of extending an offer to an interim pastor and the process of naming a Call Committee. (It is the council's responsibility to decide on the Call Committee.) She discussed Pastoral ethics and leave taking. She suggested we extend an offer to contract Pastor Steve Stutz, a trained interim pastor, to be the interim pastor at St. Paul's. President Gillespie will contact Pastor Stutz.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.26 PM and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Angie Ash, Secretary

FROM THE TREASURER			
<i>Needed weekly, \$4720 to cover General Fund expenses</i>		February	Monthly Activity
General Fund Income YTD	\$14,893.22	\$23,937.22	\$38,830.44
General Fund Expenses YTD	(\$18,599.06)	(\$18,249.09)	(\$36,848.15)
	(\$3,705.84)	\$5,688.13	\$1,982.29

March Memorials & Honorariums

In MEMORY of:

Horace Richard Aslin
Robin Dunn's father

Given By:

Beverly Tomsic
Hoya & Angie Ash
Susan Clanton

Designation:

General Fund
General Fund
Endowment Fund

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www.stpaulsbaytown.org



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Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

**This is Christ's church.
There is a place for you here.**

We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person—questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.



Church Workday